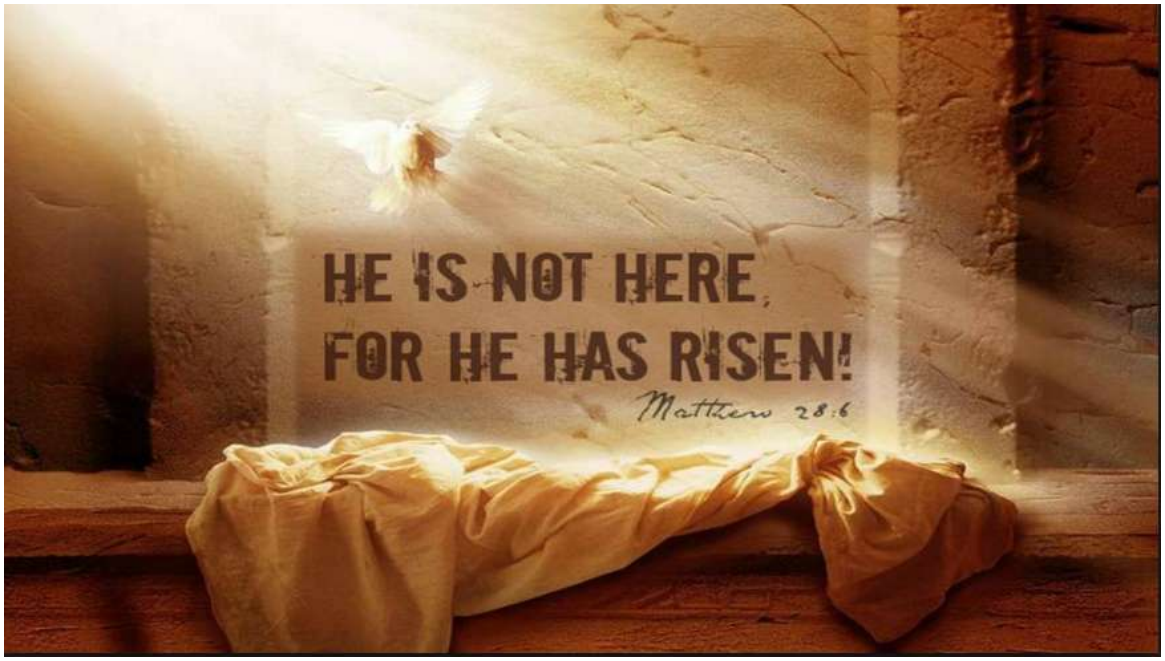
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ23ryYK8ac

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 27, 2016 10:00 am

Easter Sunday

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"In The Bulb There Is A Flower"** **433 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Tad Wysor

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Tad Wysor

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"I Will Rise"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (*Unison*) Tad Wysor

Come, God is calling us to a new day. The gifts of breath and spirit are ours to enjoy. The past is behind us, the future is not yet; today, God declares to us new possibilities. God invites us to join in proclaiming justice; we are appointed as bearers of light and love. Our eyes have been opened to see other's needs and our hands and hearts equipped to help them. Sing the glad songs of victory; God is creating a day of newness and joy. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"** **38 ES**

LISTENING FOR GOD

First Reading **Luke 24:1-12** Tad Wysor

***Anthem** **"Benedictus"** FCC Choir

Second Reading **John 20:1-18** Tad Wysor

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

Third Reading **Acts 10:34-43** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Surprising Activity"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"** **233 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father, our Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kin-dom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (*Unison*) Carol Hall

May our gifts represent our commitment, even as they bear witness and offer investment in our future work. Let us give thanks through our offerings. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Tad Wysor

Thank you, God, for resurrection. We rejoice in Christ as the first fruits of all that you make available to us. As you offered Christ to the world, so we would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to the good news of your forgiveness, love and grace. Amen."

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives"** **234 NCH**

*Benediction — Carol Hall

One: Spread the message: Christ is alive!
Live the good news: our lives are renewed!
Many: The one who was rejected assures us:
We are accepted and loved by God.
One: We are chosen by God as witnesses to good news.
We will live and recount the deeds of our God.
Many: We have seen and heard the good news.
We have been touched by the presence of God.
One: Announce and proclaim: God is our strength.
Rejoice in the promise: we shall triumph over the darkness.
Many: We will tell friends of our discoveries.
We will witness to God's surprising activity.
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude — Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we leave worship.

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

~~~~~~

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Mar 27th	Next Sunday: Apr 3rd
Usher	Wayne Burling	Lyle Molter
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Tad Wysor	Wayne Burling
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Lyle Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Easter Breakfast	Patty Sherwood
Sunday School	Alex Goldsmith	Melanie Harner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The beautiful flowers adorning our Easter morning service have been provided by the following:

Donna Eyster
Erik Leavell
Alex & Jamie Goldsmith
Wayne Burling
Anne Marie N-T
Tiffanie Waldron
Delores Emerson
Ivan & Margaret Harner
George Smith

Glenda Horvath & Kelsie Molter ---- In loving memory of Nathan & Erikson Horvath
Patty Sherwood ---- In memory of Kenneth & Nora Kinley, and Wesley & Claire Sherwood
Tad Wysor ---- For Ypsi UCC, bringing new life to our Community

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held April 4, 2016 at 4:45 pm. All are welcome.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420
~~~~~~

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

MENTOR 2 YOUTH: Mentor2Youth is a non-profit organization that provides educational services and programs to at-risk youth ages 8-18 in Washtenaw County. Since its inception in 2011, Mentor2Youth has served more than 450 youth by taking a holistic approach towards their well-being. Our mission is to ensure these youth have a promising future through educating and empowering them to excel in life, academics and work. We envision developing a school-to-career pipeline for at-risk youth as our organization continues to become more sustainable and expands over the next five years.

Contact Alex Goldsmith (alexandriansnowden@gmail.com) or visit their website (http://www.mentor2youth.com) for more information.

Today's Cover:

http://www.unitybaptistchampaign.com/2015/03/easter-sunday-2/

From the website of Unity Baptist Church, 404 South Duncan, Champaign,IL 61822. Found with Google search on images for Easter.